

Dhaka Day by Day

Old Can be Gold

by Neil Ray

Many will twitch their noses if they are asked to procure an article of wear from the second-hand garment market. The same people may not react so strongly if they are referred to the old book shops. Instead they may happily browse through the old books and like to carry them home, giving the impression that they are actually on top of the world at the moment. This happens particularly when the book is a rare find amid the collection of more conventional and cheaper books.

In Dhaka, to be allergic to old books is foolish. Unless the book worm is not supported by an income in millions per month, the appetite for voracious reading habit cannot be satisfied. But so far the habit is more confined to the middle and lower-middle classes and the prices of new books are becoming gradually for bidding. So the old book stores really are the answer. But not everyone becomes an ideal seller of this most precious commodity.

Years of empirical investment — not necessarily one has to be very erudite — in the business and a sense of what books means to the readers are the key to success in this line. The store-keeper may never in his life have gone through the books he handles or mentions with such ease, but he knows how sought-after they are. He also has a kind of love for books he will be hard put to explain. He seems to possess a magical quality too in that he is well informed of the latest best sellers and can procure them

for his customers on a short notice. How he manages the books is a secret but the customer is happy to get hold of the books at an unbelievably reduced price. In the stores of new books the prices could have burnt your finger but here the books looking almost new can make you doubly happier. The man behind

the cheap desk is a trouble-shooter of his own class. From the classics to the latest craze his is an access quite enviable. There are others who just deal in trash. Still others who collect the copies of popular magazines — both local and foreign. Sometimes the costly ones are sold at a fraction of the original price. Only a month's or weeks' old, these magazines have discernible readers. But there is yet another way of making a deal with some people to make the most of complementary currencies. The method is to tear off the head piece of the magazine cover along with the complementary seal.

However no one can beat the *loopathwallas* who consider *muri* and *murki* for the same price. They will attract your attention by loudly announcing their wares with the going rate of Tk 5 or Tk 10. No customers of books can resist a look at the mess in front of the sellers. Mostly one gets disappointed with the collection. But sometimes people come across a priceless print no more found in any of the big book stores. Such rewards are however few and demands perseverance.



For some it's a gold mine.

Turkey to import bananas from Bangladesh

Praising Bangladesh's banana as "very sweet and tasty", Turkish Ambassador Kutlu Ozguvenic said yesterday that his country wants to import the fruit from Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Each year Turkey imports banana worth 10 million US dollar mainly from Guatemala, the envoy told the regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka at Hotel Sheraton.

"I'm about to leave your country and I can tell you that I prefer bananas of Bangladesh to those we import from Guatemala. These are very sweet and tasty," said the ambassador who has been in Dhaka since 1992.

The meeting was presided over by the club's President Ashfaq Ahmed Khan.

Bangladesh's current bilateral trade with Turkey is insignificant. Bangladesh imports from Turkey mainly iron and steel worth 5 million dollar and exports jute goods up to 20 million dollar.

Ozguvenic said Turkey imports garments, frozen food,

fruit and food products from countries other than Bangladesh.

"We can import these products from Bangladesh. We are ready to buy whatever Bangladesh can offer at a competitive price," he said.

He mentioned lack of information as one of the reasons why bilateral trade is not growing between Bangladesh and Turkey, even though the two countries have traditional ties.

"Our businessmen don't know what they can buy from Bangladesh, while your businessmen are unaware of what they can import from our country," the Turkish envoy told a questioner.

He hoped that the bilateral trade will increase as there is now an agreement between Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Istanbul Chamber of Commerce.

In reply to a question, the Turkish envoy said his country will strongly support the candidature if and when Bangladesh seeks to enter the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO).



Death anniversary of M R Siddiqi

One of the organisers of the War of Liberation, Siddiqi died this day in 1992.

A milad mahfil will be held at his village home at Sitakund, Chittagong after Asr prayers today.

The third death anniversary of M R Siddiqi, country's first minister for commerce, a leading industrialist and ambassador to the United States will be observed today, says a press release.

Urs
MIRERSHWRAJ, Feb 5: The annual urs mubarak of Afiantola Khanka Sharif will be held at Mithachara in Chittagong on Tuesday.



S Aminul Islam, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Dhaka, speaking on the inaugural day of a two-day national seminar titled 'Bangladesh Facing the 21st Century' at the BISS auditorium in the city yesterday.

"Commercialisation of politics, the challenge to come"

'Commercialisation' of politics is possibly the greatest challenge that Bangladesh politics will have to face in the coming decade, reports UNB. "Politics will remain saleable for the decade to come unless people get educated and rise above poverty," research director of the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) Dr Abdur Rob Khan told a seminar held in the city yesterday.

"Political influence has turned out to be the only vehicle of personal attainment and

achievements," Dr. Rob observed at the afternoon session on the first day of the two-day national seminar on "Bangladesh Facing the Twenty-first Century" at the BISS auditorium.

Dr Rob Khan emphasised on institutionalisation of local government system to make democracy effective in the society.

"Erosion of social values, norms and behaviour will also pose a major challenge for the country in the coming century," he said.

Pointing to the rapid slide in educational standard, a symptom of the prevailing social decay, Dr. Rob warned that it would be another strong challenge for the country.

The BISS scholar said these degeneration resembling social anarchy and insecurity will affect all strata of the society and the elites of the country will be of no exception.

The elites may have two ways to escape from the degeneration process, he opined apprehending their withdrawal from the society by sending children abroad or protecting the affected children by patronising crime and exerting muscle power.

Dr. Rob laid importance on institutionalising democracy at every sphere — local government, administration, financial management and in managing security of the state — to face the challenges to come.

Prof Ataur Rahman and Prof A N Shamsul Haque took part in the discussion while Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley presided over the afternoon session of the seminar, organised by the BISS.

Italian official tells local entrepreneurs Bangladesh has opportunities for worthy investments

A senior Italian official told his country's entrepreneurs that Bangladesh has opportunities for worthy investments, reports UNB.

"There is a large number of opportunities to invest in Bangladesh," said M Zanini, head of the Asia desk of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while addressing an investment seminar in Rome last week.

Zanini said Bangladesh's low cost of manpower and the Italian advanced technology in specific sectors, such as the leather industry, could result in attractive joint ventures.

Italian companies were potentially interested in direct investments in Bangladesh, he told the 'Seminar on Investment and Trade Opportunities in Bangladesh'.

Zanini's speech was made available to the press in Dhaka yesterday by the Italian embassy.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman attended the seminar leading a strong 17-member delegation from the private sector and a five-man official team. The Italian Institute for Asia sponsored the two-day seminar which was participated by about two dozens leading Italian companies.

While acknowledging, with appreciation, Bangladesh's ongoing steps for globalisation of its economy, Zanini observed that joint venture efforts between the two countries are now worthy.

"Two economic scenarios present a rather high complementary potential, worth to be closely investigated by entrepreneurs of the two countries," he said.

Referring to Bangladesh's moves towards liberalisation, the Italian official said those had already permitted "some positive achievements." He particularly mentioned the marked decrease in inflation rate since 1992, reduction in public deficit and increasing foreign currency reserves.

The official maintained that

the existing economic relations between Dhaka and Rome were still not up to the 'effective potentials' of the two economic systems. He pointed out that Bangladesh is only at the 15th place among Italy's trade partners in Asia.

He, however, said rising trade between the two countries saw a 50 per cent increase in 1993 over the previous year.

Apprising the seminar of existing bilateral agreements, Zanini said Italy and Bangladesh had signed an agreement on Promotion and Protection of Trade in 1993, while an agreement on avoidance of double taxation was awaiting ratification.

ACIMIT, Alitalia, A B B, Fiat Avio Fochi, Italtel, Agrotec, Interleather are among some Italian companies already operating in Bangladesh.

CMC unit of JCD postpones programmes

CHITTAGONG, Feb 5: Chittagong Medical College (CMC) chapter of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) today postponed its hartal, siege and class boycott programme following fruitful discussion at a meeting with the administration, Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) and CMC authorities at the college auditorium here, reports BSS.

The CMC-JCD had enforced class boycott and hartal on the CMC campus in protest against killing of JCD leader Ashanullah Apel on January 28 by some miscreants.

The meeting was attended by Fisheries and Livestocks Minister Abdullah al-Noman, CMC principal Syeda Nurjahan Bhuiyan, a high CMP officer and JCD leader Nazimur Rahman.

The JCD was assured that the killers of Apel and others on the CMC campus would be identified and arrested by the concerned authority in the shortest possible time.



Ambassador of the Philippines Jose E Calligason called on Minister for Commerce and Information M Shamsul Islam at the latter's Secretariat office in the city yesterday. -PID photo

Weather

Light rain likely

Light rain or thundershower is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and the regions of Comilla and Sylhet during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Night temperature may fall by 1-2 degrees Celsius and is likely to register a marked drop in the next two days. Country's lowest temperature 9.2 degrees Celsius was recorded at Dinapur and the highest 30.0 degrees at Cox's Bazar.

The sun sets today at 5.48 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.37 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in major cities of the country yesterday were:

City	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Min	Max	6 am	6 pm
Dhaka	13.0	23.0	51	77
Chittagong	14.00	30.0	60	53
Cox's Bazar	15.0	30.0	69	61
Sylhet	14.3	20.6	83	89
Comilla	11.5	24.0	76	73
Rajshahi	15.0	20.5	80	86

Amendment to International Tender Notice for Import of Parboiled Rice

For Import of parboiled rice Ministry of Food Tender Notice No. MF/Sec-12/Import/195/2 dated 29.1.95 is hereby amended as follows:

SI No. 1 (h) of the Tender Notice to be substituted as under:-

"1.h: Date of shipment" 50% of the quantity under contract to be shipped by 10th of March, 1995; and balance 50% of the quantity to be shipped by 20th March, 1995."

Other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

DFP-3026/5/2
G-192

Md. Abu Bakr Siddique
Sr. Asstt. Secretary

BPDB's International Re-tender Notice

বিদ্যুৎ বিল নিয়মিত পরিশোধ করুন

International Sealed Tender is hereby invited by the Bangladesh Power Development Board for Procurement of Low resistance Ohmmeter for Grid Circle, Dhaka against Tender Enquiry No. Pur-365/93 Dated 28-01-95.

A complete set of Tender document may be sold to the interested bidder from 3-2-95 to 13-3-95 against written application and upon payment of non-refundable fee for Taka 200 (two hundred) in the shape of Bank Draft/Pay Order favouring Director of Purchase, PDB, Dhaka.

2% Bid Bond of the offered price shall be submitted along with Tender.

Tender will be received up to 11-00 AM on 16-3-95 and will be opened on the same day at 11-30 AM in presence of the intending bidder or their representative if any. No Tender shall be sent by post or sold after 13-3-95 and no Telex offer will be acceptable.

Biddut/Jana -947(5) 94-95

DFP-2526-31/1
G-194

Director of Purchase
PDB, Dhaka

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ENGINEER/ ARCHITECT WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF CAD. TAUGHT BY HIGHLY TRAINED PROFESSIONALS.
TECHNOCRATS
222, NEW ELEPHANT RD. TEL: 503413

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন
পরিবেশ উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প
ফুলবাড়িয়া, ঢাকা।
আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন
আপনার শিশুকে ঠিক দিন
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের পরিবেশ উন্নয়ন প্রকল্পের আওতায় নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাজের জন্য প্রকৃত নির্মাতা সরবরাহকারী অথবা তাহাদের স্থানীয় এজেন্টদের নিকট হইতে বাংলাদেশের সময় নং ২৯১১ তে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে।
সাপাদনী ১২-২-৯৫ই/৩০-১০-১৪০১/৯৫ তারিখে বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকার সময় উপস্থিত দরদাতা অথবা তাহাদের প্রতিনিধিদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হইবে। ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের মেয়রের অনুকূলে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন সিভিল ব্যাঙ্কের ব্যাঙ্ক ড্রাফট, পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে বায়নার টাকা টেন্ডারের সহিত জমা দিতে হইবে। ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনধীন পরিবেশ উন্নয়ন প্রকল্পের নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী-১ ও প্রধান হিসাবরক্ষণ কর্মকর্তার দপ্তর হইতে নির্ধারিত মূল্যের বিনিময়ে (অফিসের মাধ্যমে) দরপত্র দলিল করা যাইবে। এতদসম্বন্ধে বিস্তারিত বিবরণ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের পরিবেশ উন্নয়ন প্রকল্পের নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী-১ দপ্তর হইতে জানা যাইবে।
দরপত্র খোলার তারিখে কোন দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শনে কতিপয়ে যে কোন বা সমুদয় দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ক্রমিক নং	সরবরাহের নাম	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	বায়নার টাকা	সরবরাহের সময়সীমা
১।	১একটি জীপ সরবরাহের কাজ	১০০০/- (এক হাজার টাকা)	২%	৩০ (ত্রিশ) দিন নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী-১ পরিবেশ উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন। ফুলবাড়িয়া, ঢাকা।

ডিসি/পিআরডি/৩০১/৯৫-৯৫
ফি : ৩০০

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Executive Engineer, Nishindara, Bogra

Tender Notice

Date: 25 Jan/1995
IDA Credit No: 1940 BD
Tender No: 11/94-95

- The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association and grants from the Swiss Development Co-operatives and Kreditanstalt Fur Wiederaufbau in various currencies towards the cost of the Rural Roads and Markets Improvement and Maintenance Project a component of the Rural Development Project-7 and it is intended that part of the proceeds of those funds will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the Surfacing of Dhunot Chandanbaisha Road (074/FRB/02/UPG/Cont-01/94-96).
- The Local Government Division, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh as represented by the Executive Engineer, LGED, Bogra Zila now invites sealed tenders from pre-qualified tenderers under RDP-7, 6, 13, 14 & 18 for furnishing the necessary labour, materials, equipments & services for the construction and completion of Dhunot-Chandanbaisha Road (074/FRB/02/UPG/Cont-01/94-96) as per contract stated below:

Name of the FRB	Contract Package No.	Chaimage in km	Type of Surfacing	Suggested Time of Completion	Eligibility of Contractor's Class
Dhunot-Chandanbaisha	074/FRB/02/UPG/Cont-01/1994-96	0+000 km to 8+122 km	25 mm BC	24 weeks	A & B

- Interested pre-qualified tenderers may obtain further information from and inspect the tender documents at the office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Bogra and at the office of the Project Director, Rural Development Project-7, House No-14, Road No-8, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka or at the Consultant's Regional Project Office, RDP-7, Bogra.
- A complete set of tender documents for the contract may be purchased by any interested pre-qualified tenderers on submission of a written application to one of the above offices and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tk. 1000.00 (One thousand) only. Additional sets of tender documents may be purchased each at the same price from all above mentioned offices. The tender documents may be purchased on or before 11 February, 1995.
- All tenders must be accompanied by earnest money in the amount of 2% of tender sum in the form of BD or Pay Order and must be delivered to the Executive Engineer, LGED, Bogra on or before 12.30 PM on 13 February, 1995. The tender may also be delivered to the office of the Project Director, Rural Development Project-7, House No-14, Road No-8, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka or at the Consultant's Regional Project Office, RDP-7, Bogra on the same day and time.
- Tenders will be opened in the presence of those tender's representatives who choose to attend at 1.30 PM on 13 February, 1995 at the office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Bogra and the office of the Project Director, Rural Development Project-7, House No-14, Road No-8, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka or at the Consultant's Regional Project Office, RDP-7, Bogra on the same day and time.
- The tenderer or his official representative who is able to act & supply necessary information on behalf of the contractor is advised to attend a pre-tender conference which will be convened at the office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Bogra at 10.30 AM on 11 February, 1995.
- No tender will be received by mail.
- Tender will be received without VAT registration certificate.
- The accepting authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason and is not bound to accept either the lowest tender or any of the tenders.

MD Mostadar Rahman
Executive Engineer
Local Govt. Engineering Deptt., Bogra.
DFP-2472-31/1
G-193

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Local Government Engineering Department
Nilphamari

Tender Notice No. 16/94-95 (2nd Time Call)

Memo No. LGED/XEN/Nil/95/103 Date: 25-01-95 Eng

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 are hereby invited from the enlisted contractors of LGED and Pre-qualified Contractors under Different Projects of Local Government Engineering Department for construction of single stoned pucca school building under Islamic Development Bank assisted Govt Primary School Construction Project.

Interested contractors can obtain necessary tender documents during normal office hours on all working days up to 14th February/1995 from the office of either (i) Executive Engineer, LGED, Dist. Rangpur/Lalmonirhat/Dongram/Gaibandha (ii) Thana Engineer, LGED, Thana Dimla and the office of the undersigned, on cash payment of Tk 500/- (Five hundred) only (Non-refundable) in favour of the undersigned after obtaining written approval from the respective officers for purchase of Tender Documents on showing documentary evidence of their enlistment. Tenders will be received by the above mentioned offices up to 12.00 hours on 15th February/1995. No tender will be accepted beyond this time, and tenders will be opened at 12.30 hours on the same day in the presence of the tenderers (if any).

Interested tenderers may obtain necessary information regarding tender and work from the above mentioned offices during normal office hours on all working days. Tender must be accompanied by all relevant papers and Earnest Money at 2.5% (Two point five per cent) of the total quoted price in favour of the Executive Engineer, Local Government Engineering Department, Dist. Nilphamari as stated in Tender Document.

The Authority reserves the right to accept any tender or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof. Tenders not complying with the stipulated conditions will be treated as non-responsive and will be rejected.

SI No	Name of the work	Earnest money	Cost of tender document	Completion time for work
01.	Dimla Thana Re-Const of Vendabari Govt Primary School.	2.5% of the total quoted price.	Tk 500/-	90 days

Md Asraful Haque
Executive Engineer
Local Govt Engineering Department
Nilphamari.
DFP-2475-31/1
G-196